



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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**The Patent Office
Patents Directorate**

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**Your Reference: ACH/HFL/57583/000
Application No: GB 0108997.8**

18 March 2002

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(6)

I enclose two copies of my search report relating to claims 5,6 and 8 and a copy of the citations.

This search is in response to the further Patents Form 9/77 filed on 9 January 2002.

Yours faithfully

Richard Gregson
Examiner



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0108997.8
Claims searched: 5,6 and 8

Examiner: Richard Gregson
Date of search: 15 March 2002

Patents Act 1977 Further Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.T): B5N : (B6J (JB2, JB7)

Int Cl (Ed.7): A47K (10/16) : B31F (1/07) : B32B (3/28, 29/00)

Other: Online: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO, RM25

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	EP 1149552 A (LEFEBVRE & NEVEU) - see diagrams in particular.	n/a
A	WO 0138078 A (PRATT) - see diagrams in particular.	n/a
A	US 6086715 A (MCNEIL) - see diagrams in particular.	n/a
A	US 3867872 A (NYSTRAND) - see diagrams in particular.	n/a

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



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Your Reference: ACH/HFL/57583/000
Application No: GB 0108997.8

17 July 2001

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)**

Latest date for reply:

10 April 2003

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **3 September 2002**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

†Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Application No: GB 0108997.8

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17 July 2001

Yours faithfully

Richard Gregson
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could **prominently indicate** in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



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Application No: GB 0108997.8
Claims searched: 1-4,7

Examiner: Richard Gregson
Date of search: 13 July 2001

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.S): B5N: B6J (JB2, JB7)

Int Cl (Ed.7): A47K (10/16) : B31F (1/07) : B32B (3/28, 29/00)

Other: Online: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO, RM25.

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 1420140 (PCM Company) - see whole document.	n/a
A	WO 9508671 A (PROCTOR & GAMBLE) - see whole document.	n/a
A	US 4483728 (BAUERNFEIND) - see whole document.	n/a
A	US 4325768 (SCHULZ) - see whole document	n/a

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



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Your ref: ACH/HFL/57583/000
Application No: GB 0108997.8
Applicant: SCA Hygiene Products Holding GmbH

Examiner: Richard Gregson
Tel: 01633 814694
Date of report: 13 July 2001

Latest date for reply: 10 April 2003

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Patents Act 1977 Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Plurality of invention

1. Your claims define two separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. The inventions are:
 - 1.1 A method of producing a multi-ply web of material wherein at least one ply is pre-embossed with a pattern of crests and depressions, the plies then being mechanically bonded by passing them between a spiked roller and a rigid, smooth roller, both of which are synchronised to the pre-embossing rollers so that the spikes will hit the ply depressions. Claims 1-4 and 7.
 - 1.2 a mechanically bonded multi-ply material, where at least one of the plies has an embossed pattern of crests and depressions, the bonding points being located within the depressions and having a smaller area than that of the depressions. Claims 5, 6 and 8.
2. You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the description. You may wish to consider filing a divisional application.

Clarity.

3. Claim 1 specifies that at least a first ply is embossed with a pattern of crests and depressions before being combined with at least one second ply. This is not quite consistent with the essential features of the invention listed in the final paragraph of page 2 and page 3, where no description of the embossing pattern of the first ply is given. Claim 1 also claims flexible materials 'such as' paper and non woven material and is therefore ambiguous as it is uncertain whether these examples are the sole embodiments to be claimed
4. In a similar manner the phrase 'such a paper and nonwoven material' renders claim 5 ambiguous as it is uncertain whether these examples are the sole embodiments to be claimed. Further claim 5 later refers solely to a paper product and is therefore not fully consistent with itself.
5. The wording of claim 5 should be clarified by replacing the word 'being' on line 12 with the word 'are'.